## **SCOPING**

Prior to writing an initial draft SEPA document, it may be helpful to solicit preliminary comments from responsible agencies and/or the public. This "scoping" process can be an effective method to define potential project impacts and to determine additional material that should be included in the document. Scoping may reduce the likelihood that a document will contain inadequate or erroneous information, analysis or mitigation measures which may delay final EA or EIS approval, or delay issuance of a required permit or certification.

The scoping document should include a 1-2 page summary of a proposed project and include topographic map(s) of the project site and/or service area displaying the project's footprint.

DWQ strongly recommends that scoping requests be submitted to the <u>State Clearinghouse</u> (SCH) rather than by contacting agency representatives directly. SCH scoping may elicit more detailed, thorough, and reliable involvement by all agencies at one time than contacting state and federal environmental <u>agency representatives</u> individually. Direct contact of agency personnel may elicit quicker scoping comments, but neither the thoroughness of the comments nor the involvement of all agencies contacted can be guaranteed. The SCH scoping method will add an additional 30-working days to the overall project review process.

Particularly when scoping an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the applicant should prepare and distribute the scope of the EIS through the SCH. Once comments are gathered, the project applicant should meet with DWQ staff to determine a final EIS outline, including defining reasonable alternatives to be discussed in the EIS. If staff or the applicant feels it is necessary, a public hearing could be held to obtain public comments.